



ONCE UPON A TIME AT THE END OF THE WORLD™

JASON AARON LEILA DEL DUCA TAMRA BONVILLAIN
WITH ALEXANDRE TEFENKGI AND LEE LOUGHRIDGE



#6

BOOM!
STUDIOS



BOOK TWO

THE RISE AND FALL
OF GOLGONOOZA



CHAPTER SIX

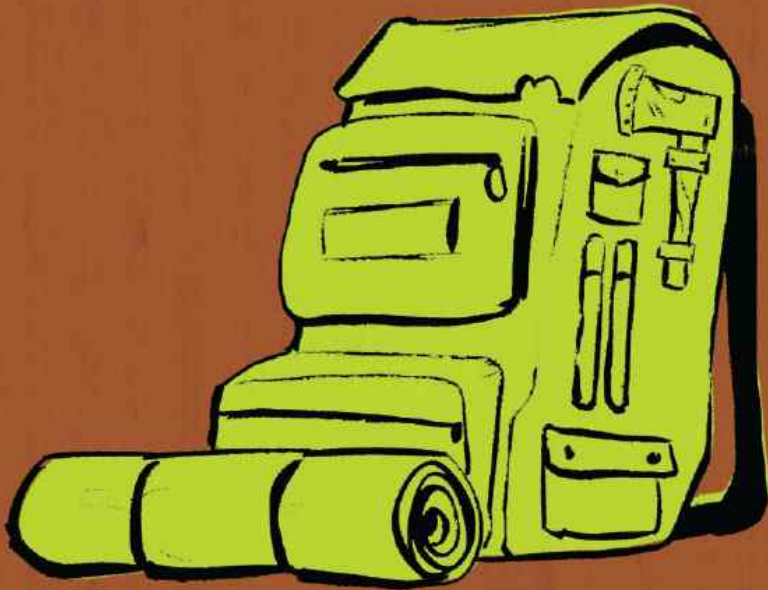
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They met in a tower rising from the waves.

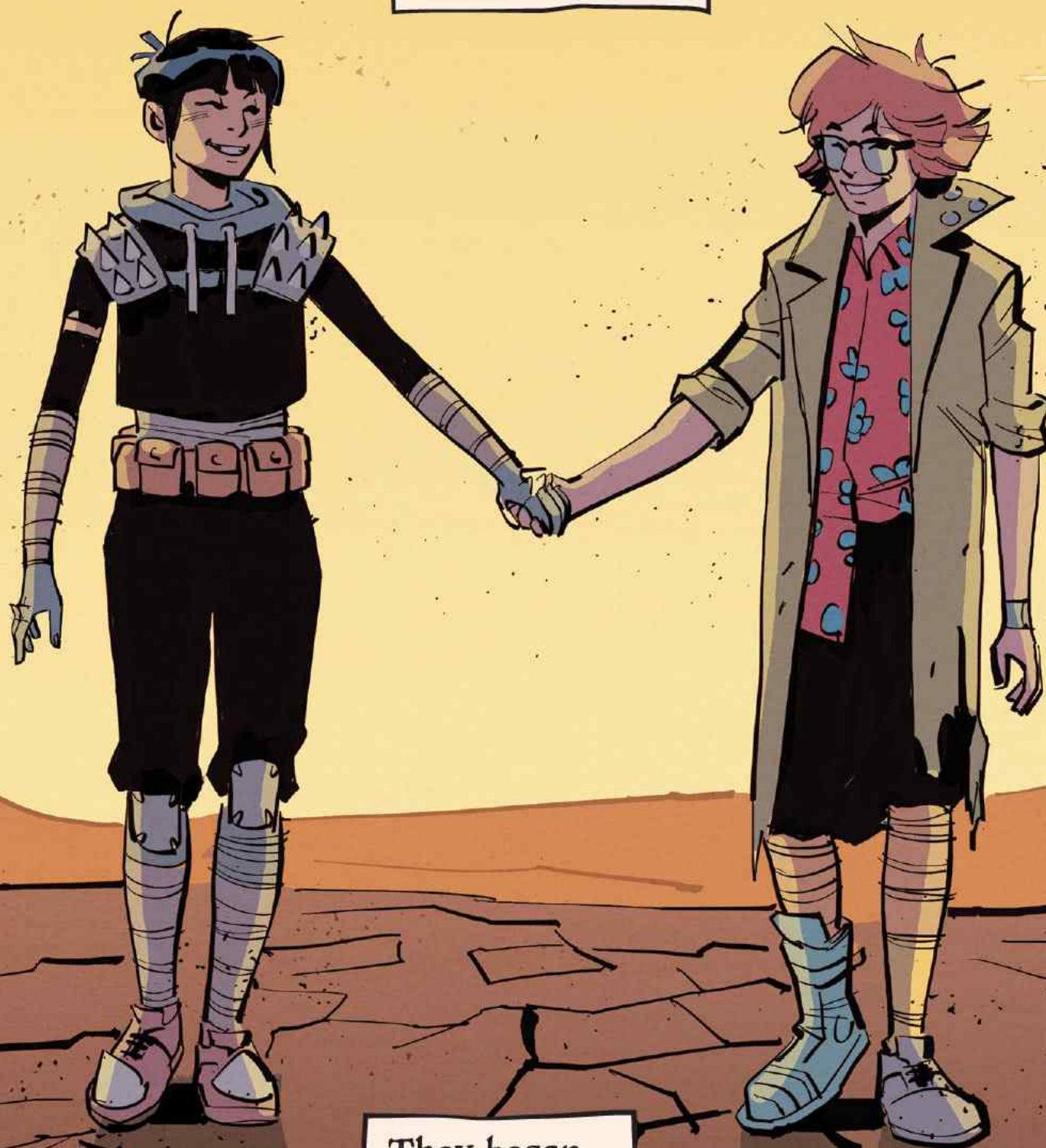
And from there, they walked the wasteland.

They walked day and night, year after year...

...surviving...

...searching...

...adoring the other more with every step.



They began their journey as *children*.

But they walked so very long that eventually there came the day...

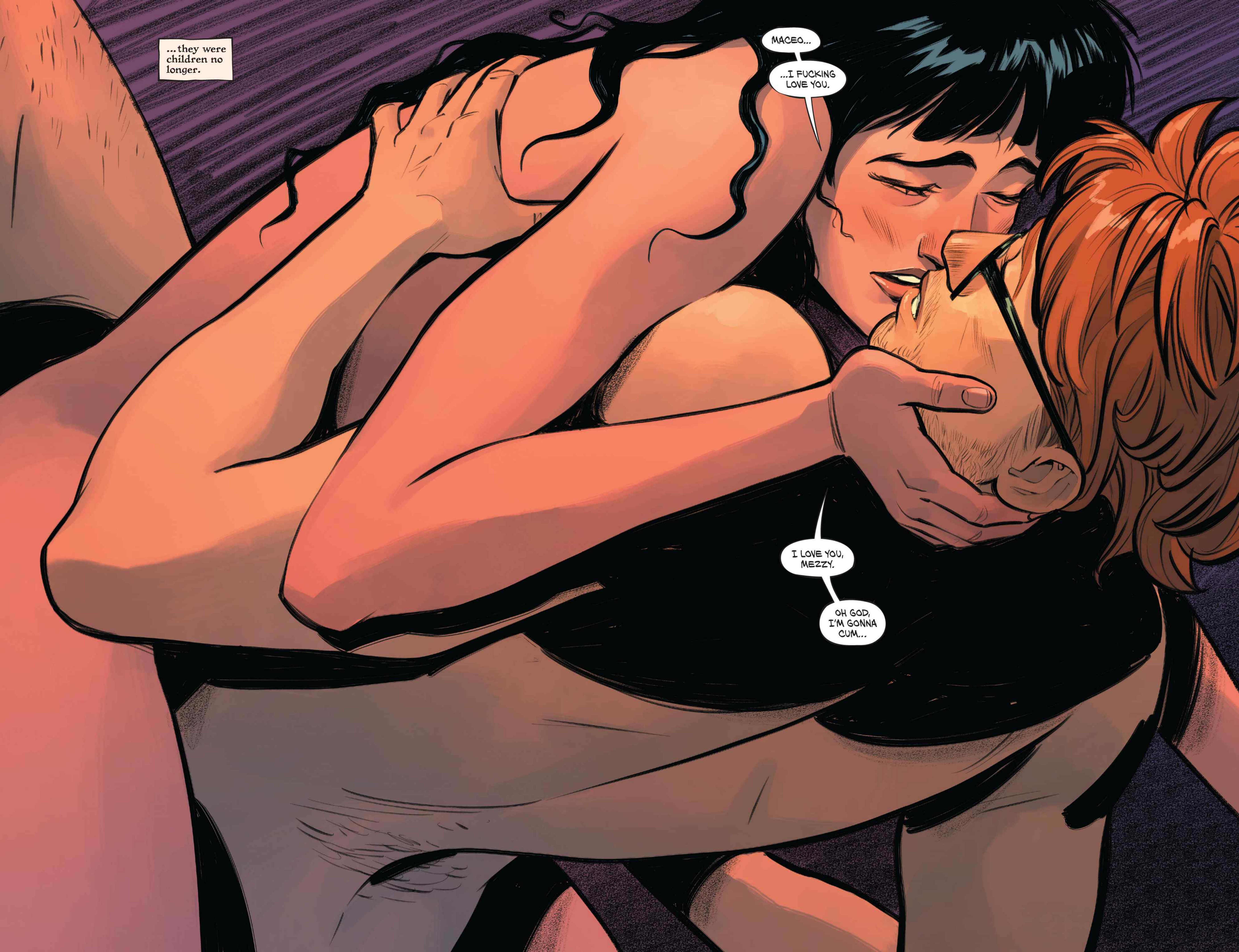
... they were
children no
longer.

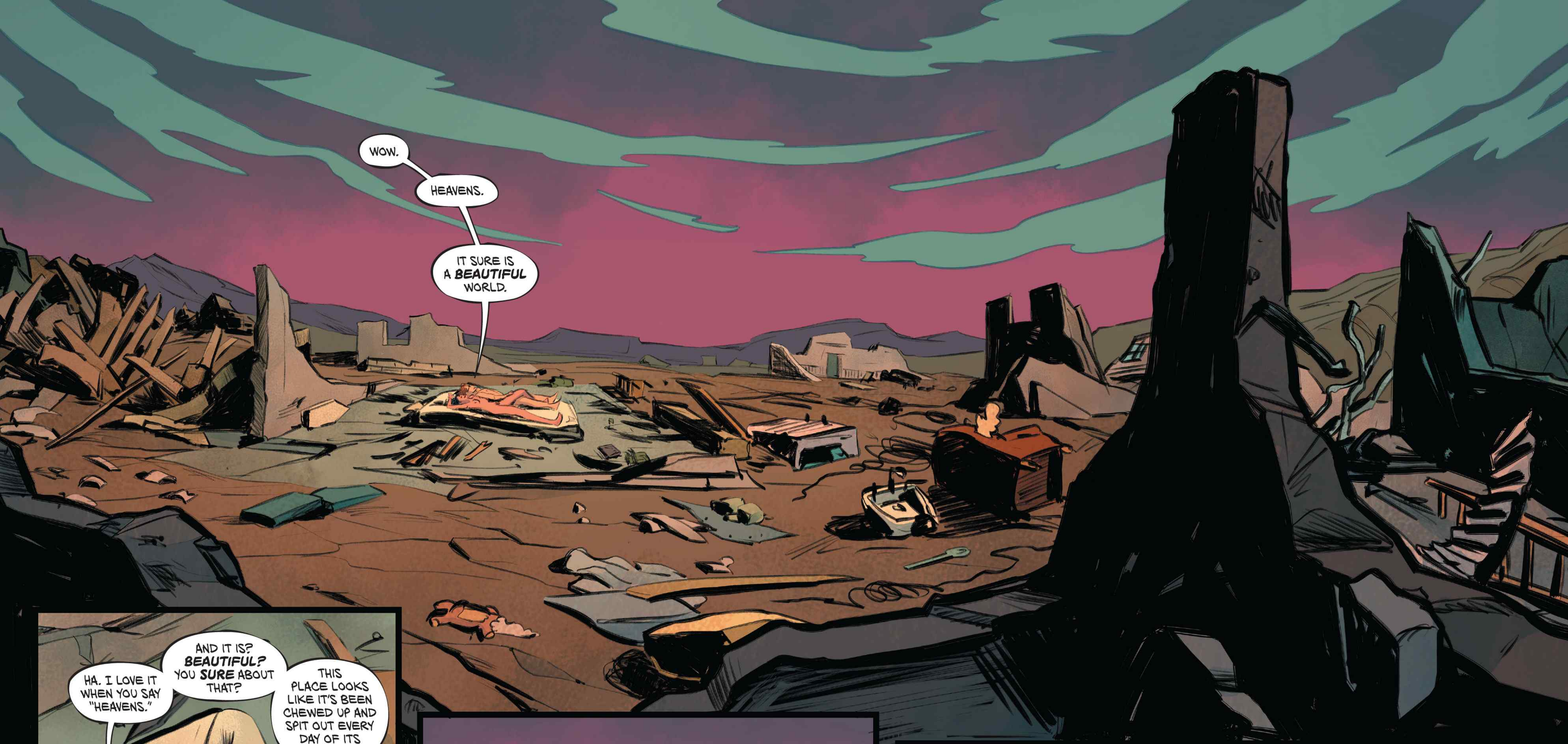
MACEO...

...I FUCKING
LOVE YOU.

I LOVE YOU,
MEZZY.

OH GOD,
I'M GONNA
CUM...

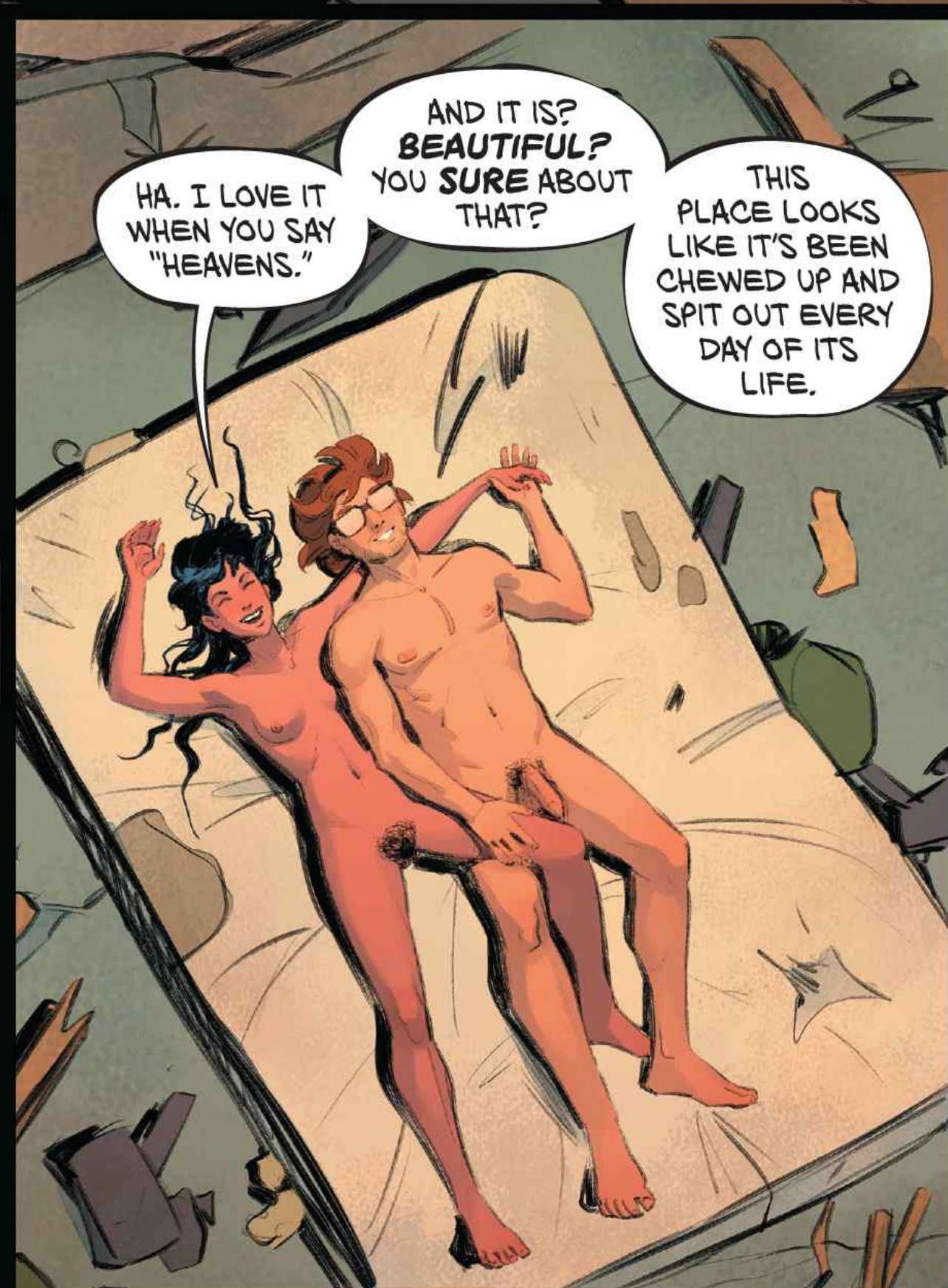




WOW.

HEAVENS.

IT SURE IS
A **BEAUTIFUL**
WORLD.



HA. I LOVE IT
WHEN YOU SAY
"HEAVENS."

AND IT IS?
BEAUTIFUL?
YOU **SURE** ABOUT
THAT?

THIS
PLACE LOOKS
LIKE IT'S BEEN
CHEWED UP AND
SPIT OUT EVERY
DAY OF ITS
LIFE.



YOU
KNOW, JUST LIKE
THE REST OF THIS
GOD-FOR-FUCKING-
SAKEN PLANET.

THAT'S
NOT THE
WORLD I
MEANT.



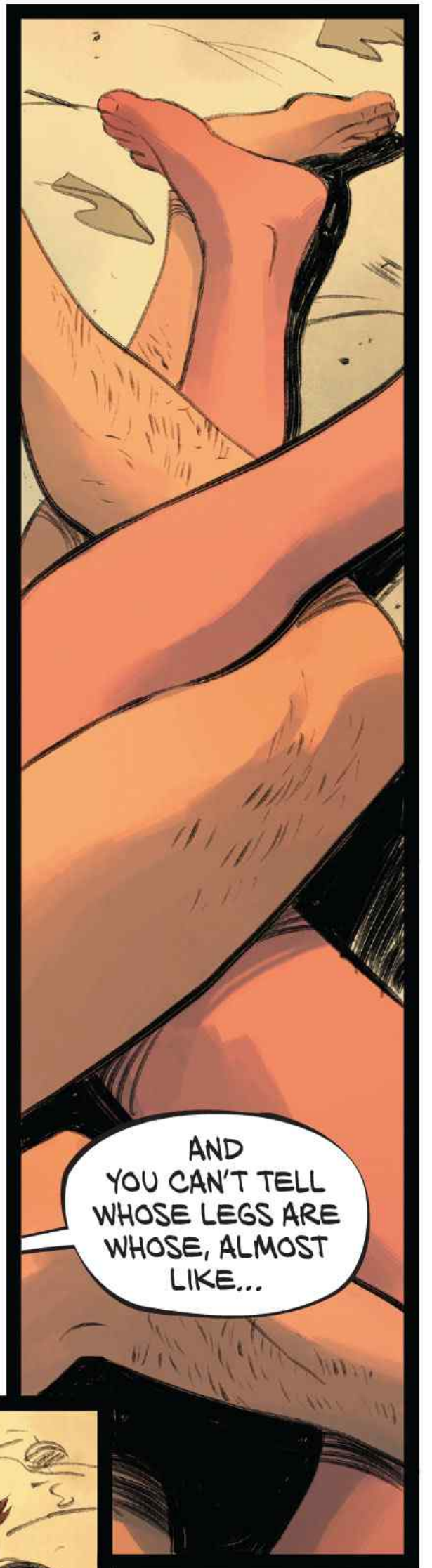
IS THERE SOME
OTHER WORLD I
DON'T KNOW
ABOUT?

YOU KNOW ABOUT
IT. BECAUSE WE'RE
THE ONLY TWO
PEOPLE IN IT.

WE MIGHT BE
THE ONLY TWO
PEOPLE LEFT IN
THIS WORLD
TOO.

FINE
BY ME.

AND
PROBABLY FOR
THE BEST. I MEAN,
YOU'RE REALLY
LOUD WHEN YOU
CUM.





Every morning,
they woke to ruin.

To an endless vista
of soul-crushing
desolation.

Yet all they saw
was each other.

Day after day, the horizon showed them it had nothing left to offer worth the effort of their continued survival.

Yet Maceo and Mezzy laughed while they walked.

MACEO...
MARRY ME IN
THE MIDDLE OF
THE ROAD.

YES,
BABY.

They traversed every crest and valley with gleeful enthusiasm.

MEZZY...
MARRY ME
IN THE SKY
SWAMP.

YES,
LOVER.

Together,
they explored
the world.

One touch
at a time.

OOOH
BABY...

MARRY
ME.



...as if beholding
the *beauty* of the
world for the
very first time.





MEZZY...

MARRY
ME IN THE
BATH.

YES, MY
LOVE.

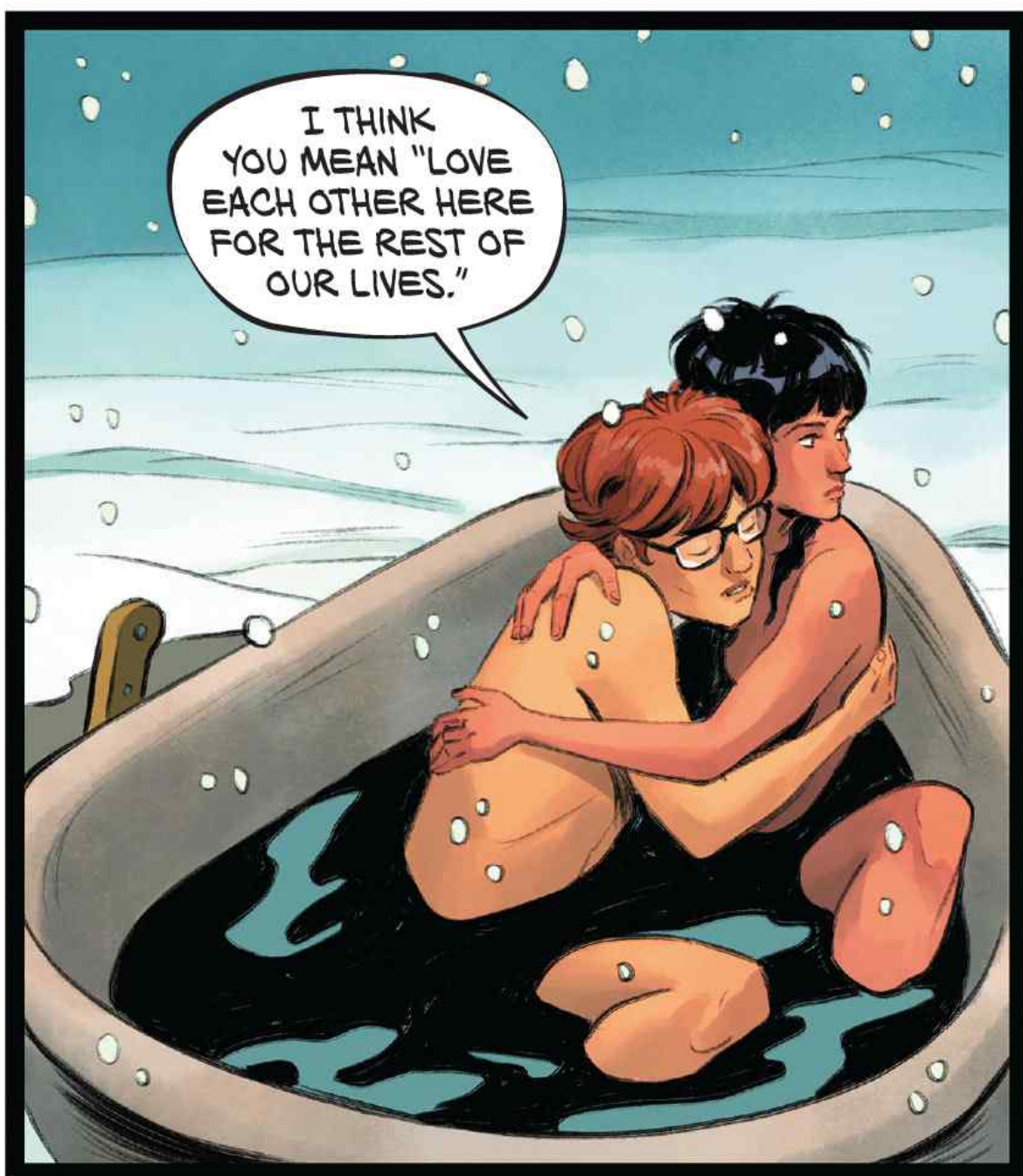
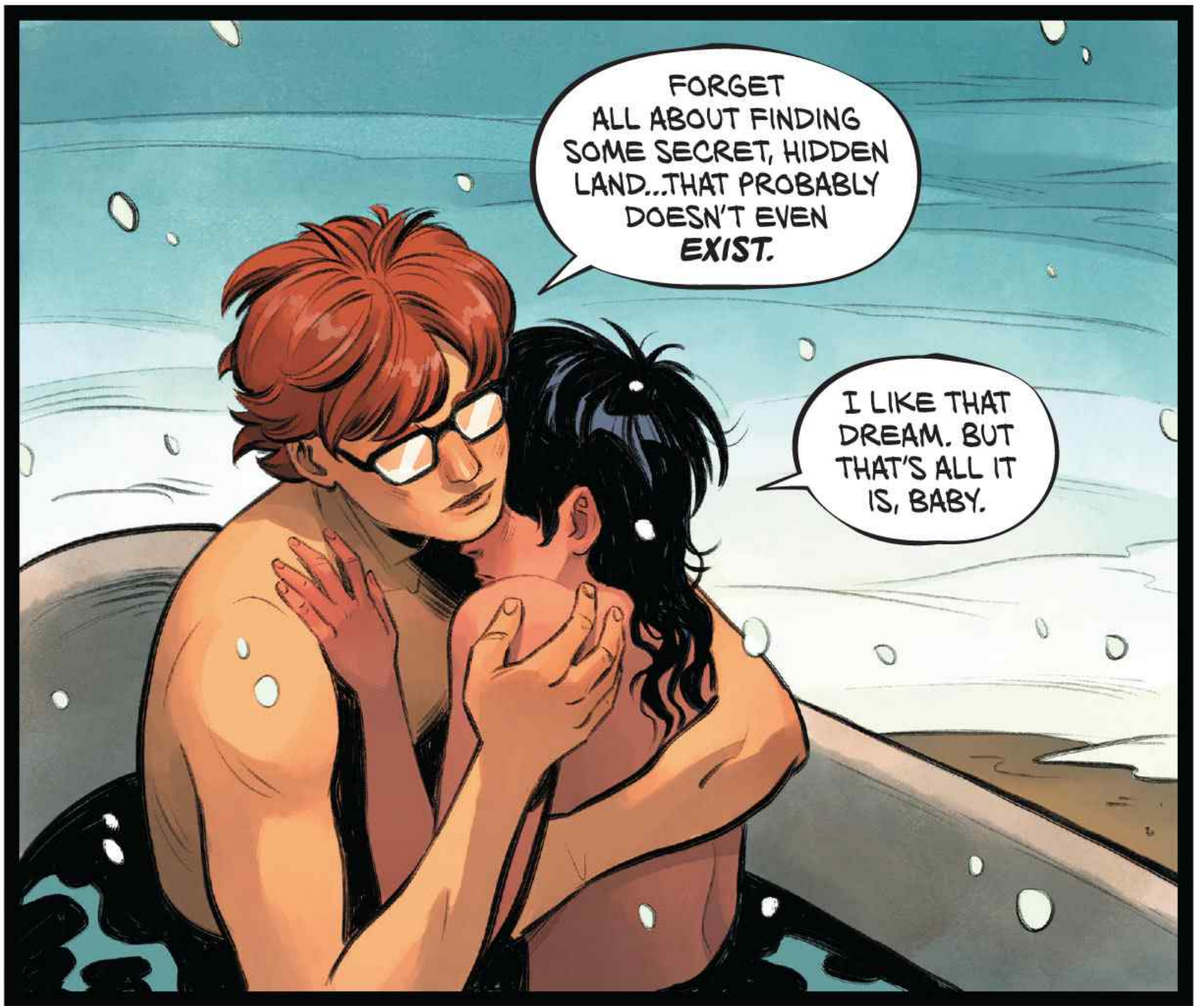
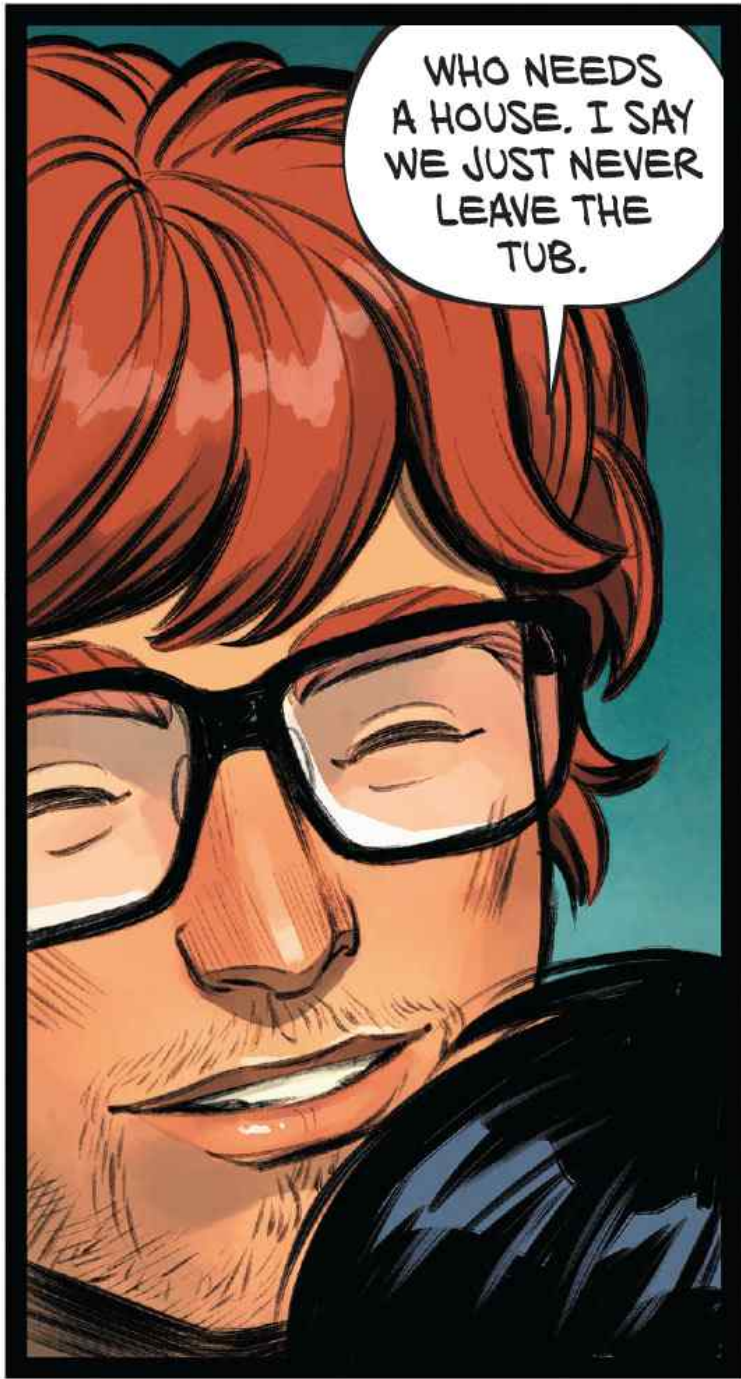


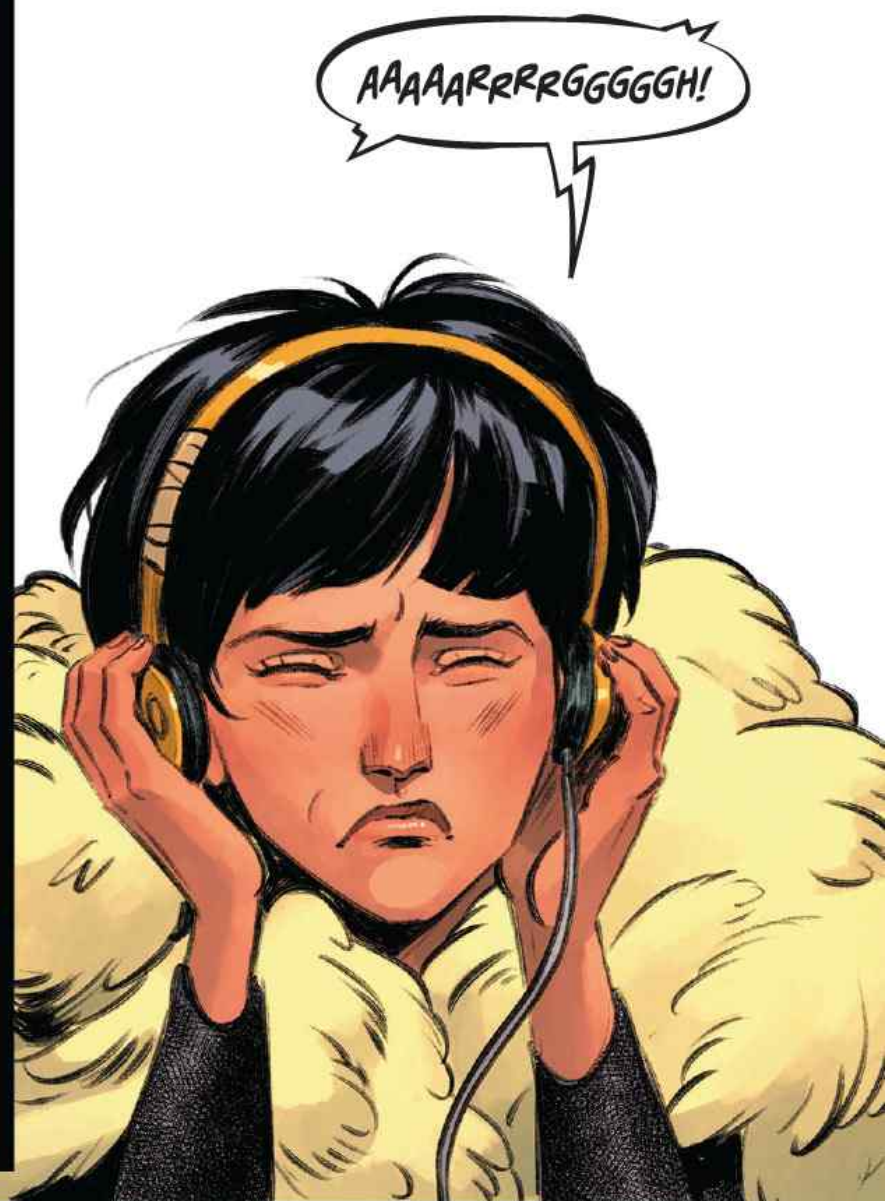
YOU'RE
THINKING THAT
WE SHOULD'VE
BEEN THERE
BY NOW.



AND YOU'RE
THINKING THAT
WE COULD JUST
STAY RIGHT
HERE.

BUILD
A HOUSE
AROUND
THE TUB.





There were times
they tried to stop
along the way.

To build a *home*
in the wasteland
here or there...

...one wretched,
desolate spot
seemingly just as
good as the next.

But inevitably,
they'd get sick
from something
in the air or the
wells they'd dig.

Or the ground
would rumble
and try to
swallow them.

Or blizzards of
blood-sucking insects
would descend.

Or sometimes the
worst threat of them
all would rear its
hideous head.



Other people.

In the mountains, there were those who took turns *screaming*, day and night, wailing until their throats gushed blood...

...perhaps hoping to catch the ear of some higher power and *remind* Him of their existence.



In a cavern beneath the ground, a man followed them through the gloom, shrieking his demands.

TAKE IT,
YOU CHICKENSHIT
SHIT-SUCKERS!

YOU ROTTING,
RAT-INFESTED
BUCKETS OF
CANKEROUS
ASSHOLES!

TAKE IT
AND FUCKING
KILL ME!

There was a woman in a pit of bones who fell down *laughing* whenever she tried to climb out

As if the world outside her grave was too *hysterical* to look upon.

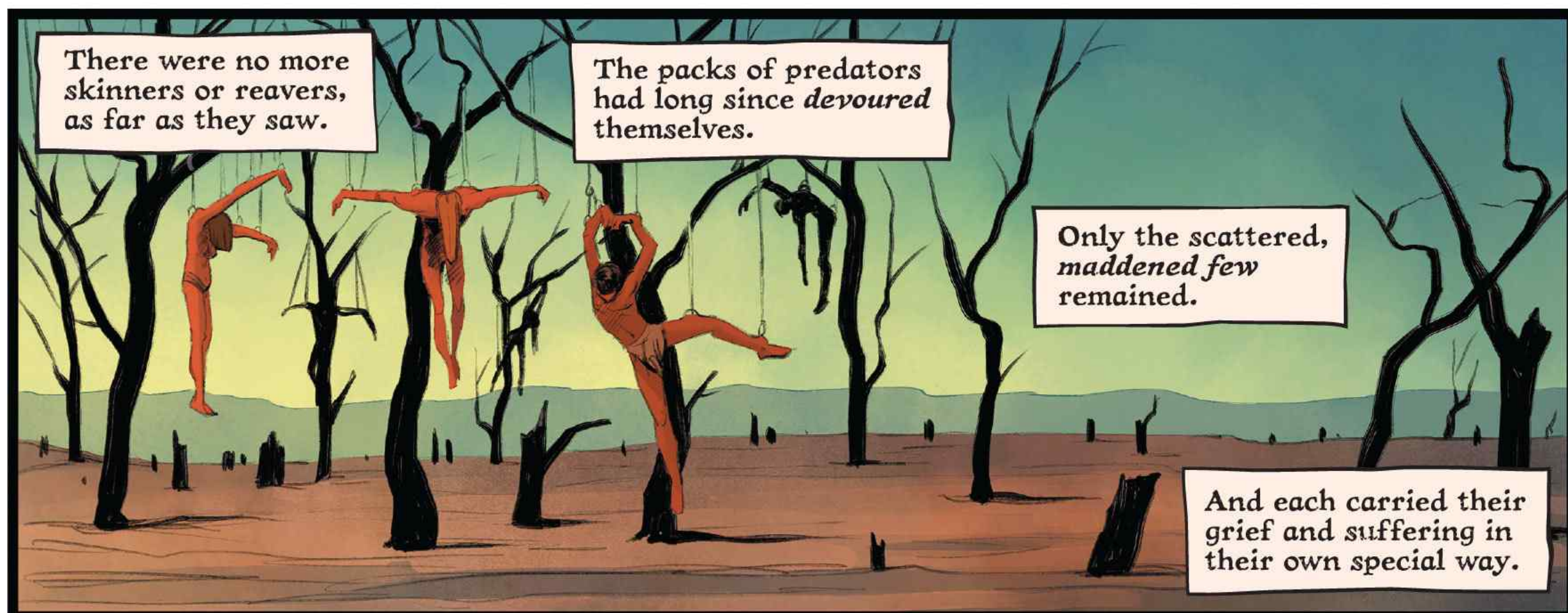


There were no more skimmers or reavers, as far as they saw.

The packs of predators had long since *devoured* themselves.

Only the scattered, *maddened* few remained.

And each carried their grief and suffering in their own special way.



Maceo and Mezzy paid these other travelers no heed.



Or at least that was the way of it. Until the *storm*.

≡YAWN≡

RISE AND SHINE. BREAKFAST IS SERVED.



Until the new friend who came to them on the wind.

KALISTA, HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR SYRUP BOWL?

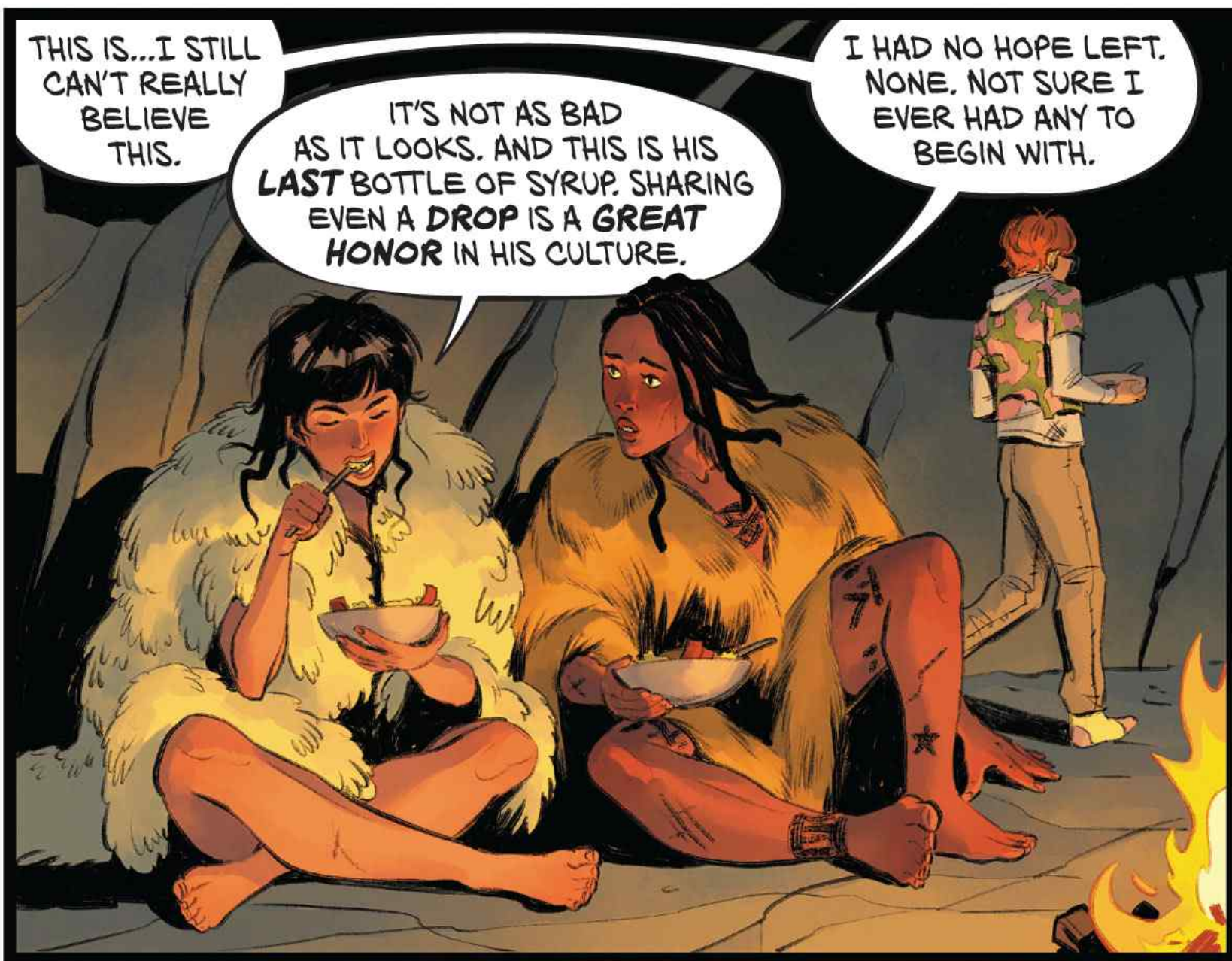
WITH SCRAMBLED SNAKE EGGS OR CRISPY RAT-BACK OR **BOTH** ALL SWIRLED TOGETHER?





MORNING, BABY.

GOOD MORNING, GORGEOUS.



THIS IS...I STILL CAN'T REALLY BELIEVE THIS.

IT'S NOT AS BAD AS IT LOOKS. AND THIS IS HIS **LAST** BOTTLE OF SYRUP. SHARING EVEN A **DROP** IS A **GREAT HONOR** IN HIS CULTURE.

I HAD NO HOPE LEFT. NONE. NOT SURE I EVER HAD ANY TO BEGIN WITH.



NO HOPE I'D EVER EVEN **SPEAK** TO ANOTHER PERSON AGAIN. LET ALONE...

YOU LET ME WARM MYSELF BY YOUR FIRE. SOME BONE-DRENCHED **STRANGER** STUMBLING OUT OF THE RAIN.

YOU SHOWED ME THERE'S STILL LIFE WORTH **LIVING** IN THE WASTELAND.



WHY DO THAT, MEZZY?

WHY LET ME INTO YOUR WORLD?

WHY TAKE THAT **CHANCE** GIVEN ALL YOU HAVE TO **LOSE**?



MACEO AND I TALKED ABOUT IT FOR A LONG TIME.

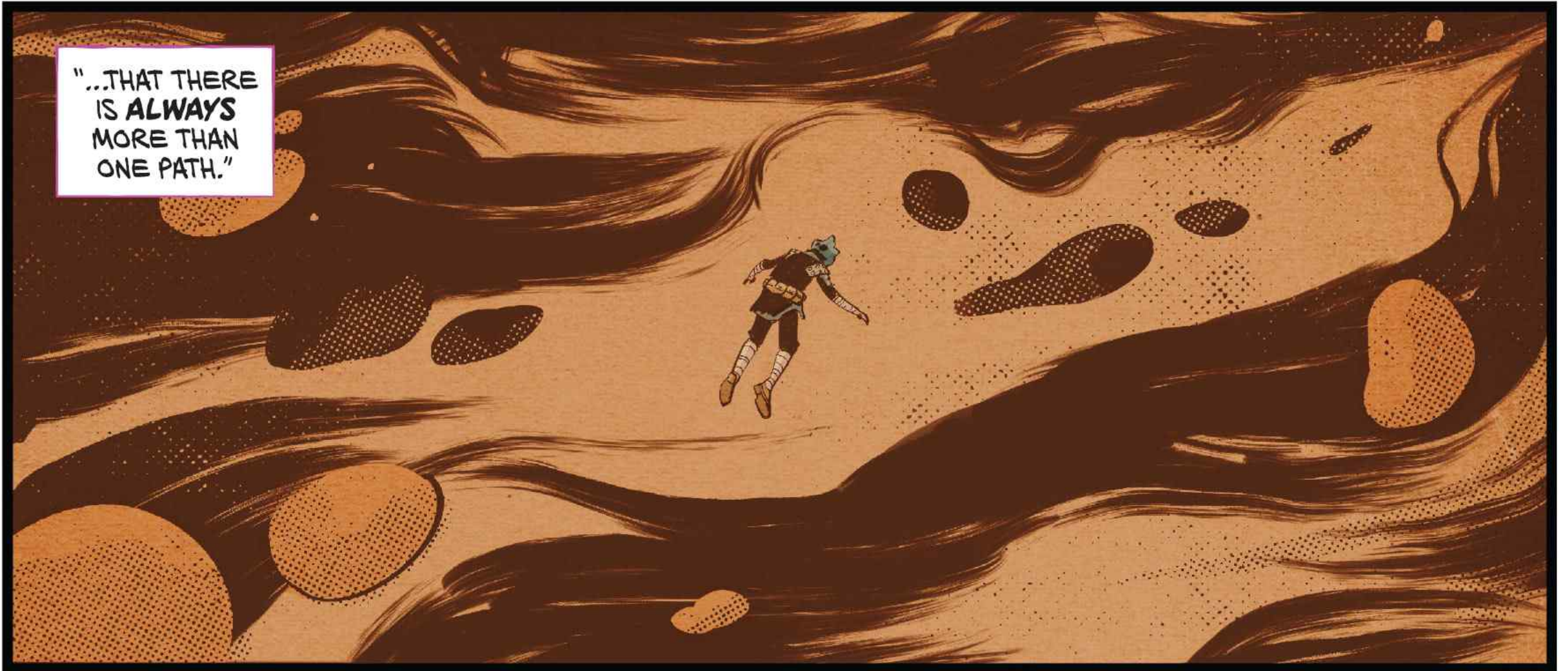
ULTIMATELY, HE **TRUSTED** ME.

BUT WHY WOULD YOU **TRUST ME**?

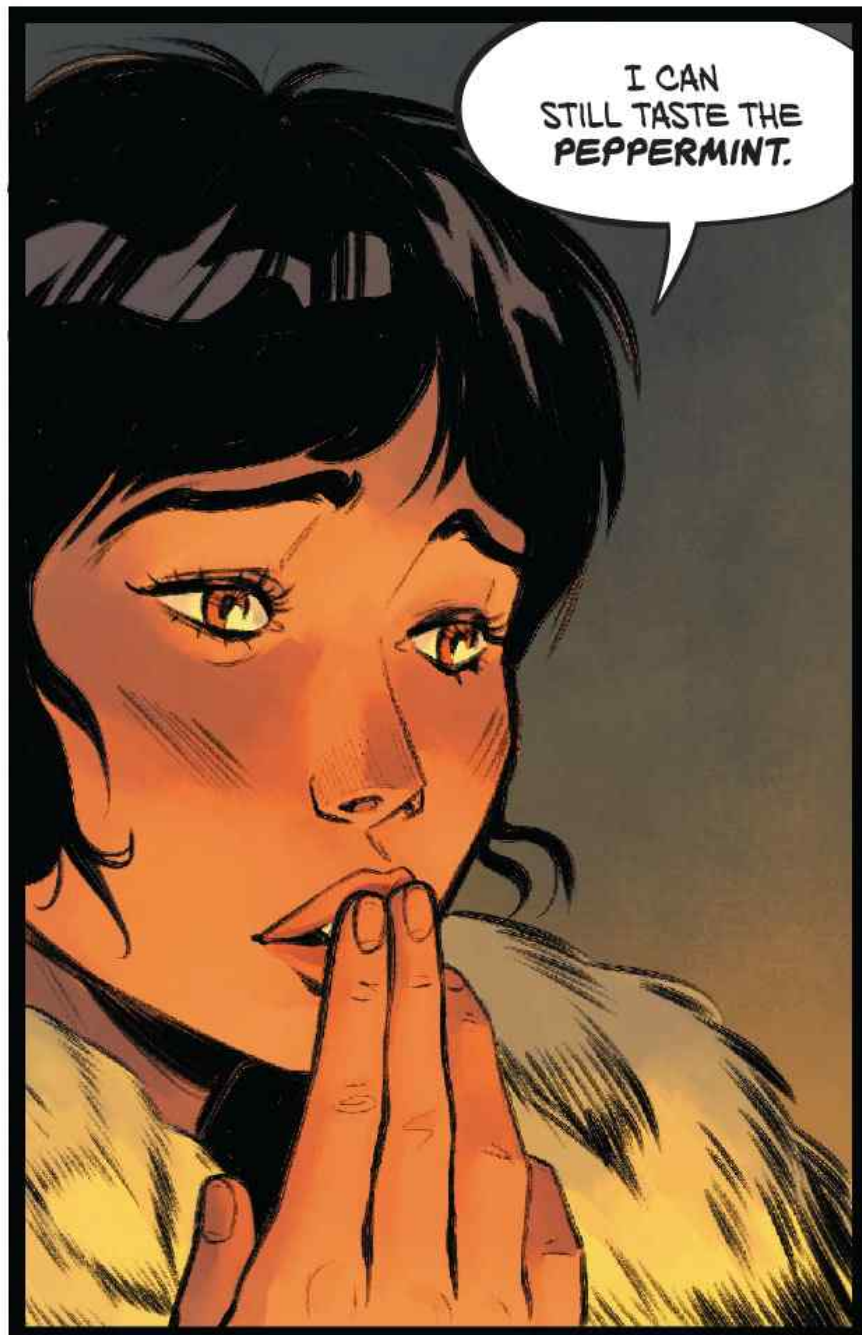


BECAUSE I NEVER WOULD'VE GOTTEN WHAT I HAVE IF I'D STAYED **CLOSED OFF** TO THE WORLD.

AND BECAUSE I HATE MYSELF EVERY GODDAMN DAY FOR HOW LONG IT TOOK ME TO **REALIZE**...



"...THAT THERE
IS **ALWAYS**
MORE THAN
ONE PATH."



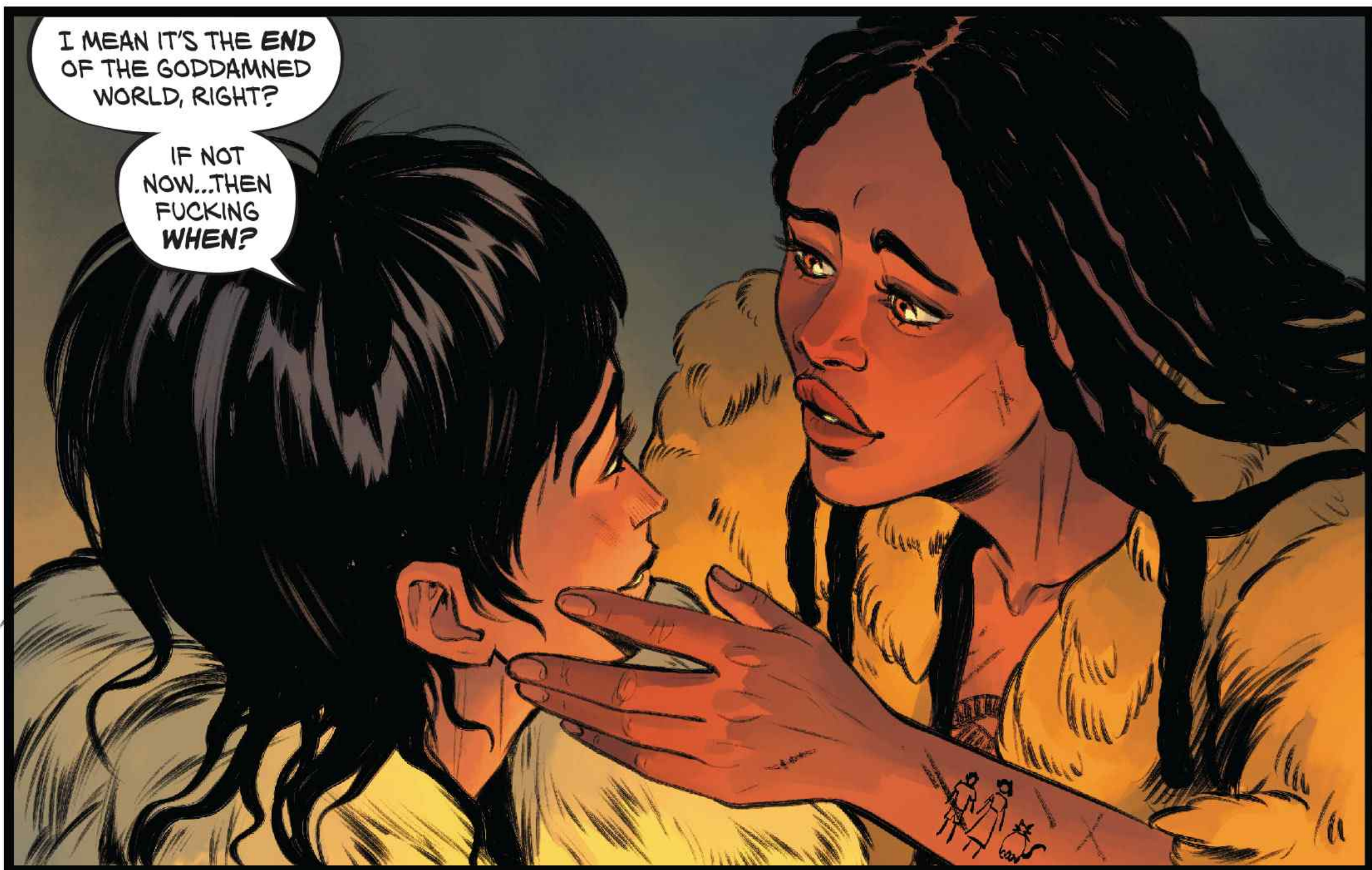
I CAN
STILL TASTE THE
PEPPERMINT.



AND LAST BUT
CERTAINLY NOT
LEAST...I TRUSTED
YOU BECAUSE I
WANTED TO.

MACEO
AND I AGREED,
IF WE CAN DO IT
WITH CARE AND
CONSIDERATION
FOR WHAT WE
HAVE...

...WE
SHOULDN'T
HAVE TO SAY NO
TO **ANYTHING**
WE DESIRE.



I MEAN IT'S THE **END**
OF THE GODDAMNED
WORLD, RIGHT?

IF NOT
NOW...THEN
FUCKING
WHEN?





SHIT. I WANNA BE **YOU TWO** WHEN I GROW UP.

FIRST YOU HAVE TO PROMISE TO NEVER GROW UP.

I WISH I COULD, DARLING.



SO, ARE YOU HEADED ANYWHERE IN PARTICULAR, KALISTA? OR JUST...

...YOU KNOW... HEADED?



I'VE JUST...I...HISTORY SHOWS I DON'T DO WELL...WITH...

...PEOPLE.

SURE, I GET IT. NEITHER DID WE.



UNTIL WE MET THE RIGHT PEOPLE.



TELL YOU WHAT... YOU FIND THIS OASIS YOU'RE LOOKING FOR... AND YOU STILL FEEL LIKE HAVING SOME COMPANY...

...SEND UP A FLARE OR MAKE SOME SMOKE SIGNALS OR SOMETHING.



AND IF THE WIND'S BLOWING THE RIGHT DIRECTION...

...**MAYBE** I'LL COME BLOWING IN WITH IT.



MACEO...
ARE YOU SURE
YOU STILL FEEL
OKAY ABOUT...ALL
OF THIS?



IF
YOU DO,
I DO.

AND IF YOU
DIDN'T...

IF I DIDN'T,
I'D **TELL** YOU I
DIDN'T. PROBABLY
RECORD A WHOLE
LONG **TAPE**
ABOUT IT.

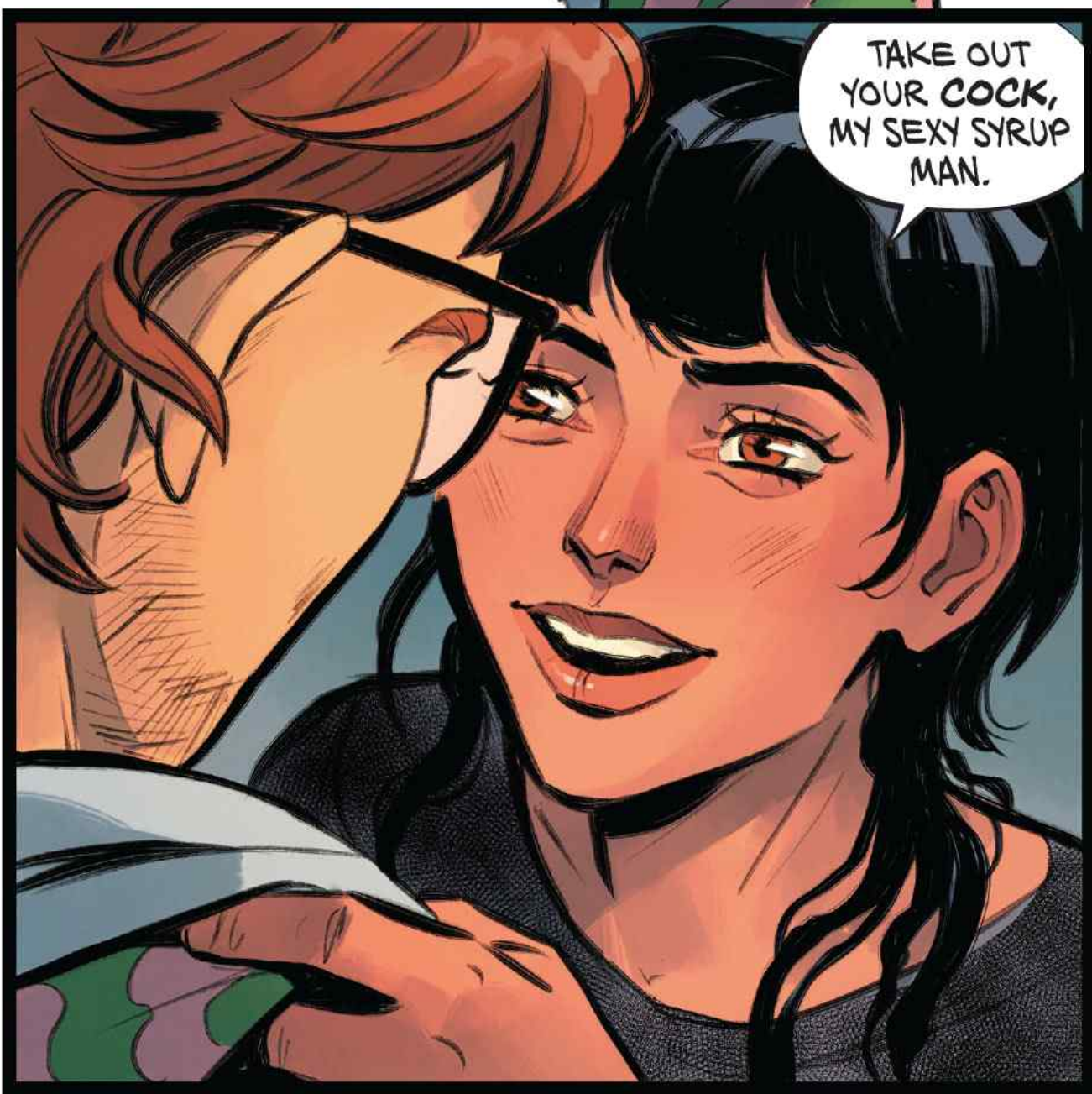
WHAT
WE HAVE
HAS TO BE
PROTECTED.
ALWAYS. WE
NEED TO
PROMISE
EACH OTHER
THAT.



MEZZY, I
PROMISE YOU, WITH
ALL MY HEART. WITH
EACH AND EVERY ONE
OF MY INTERNAL
ORGANS.

SHOULD WE...
SHAKE ON IT OR
SOMETHING?

NO. NO, A
HANDSHAKE
WON'T DO.



TAKE OUT
YOUR **COCK**,
MY SEXY SYRUP
MAN.



AND COME HERE
AND FUCKING
MARRY ME.

There would
be others.
Like Kalista.

Other travelers
they'd encounter.

Other explorers
lost in the wilds
of the wasteland.

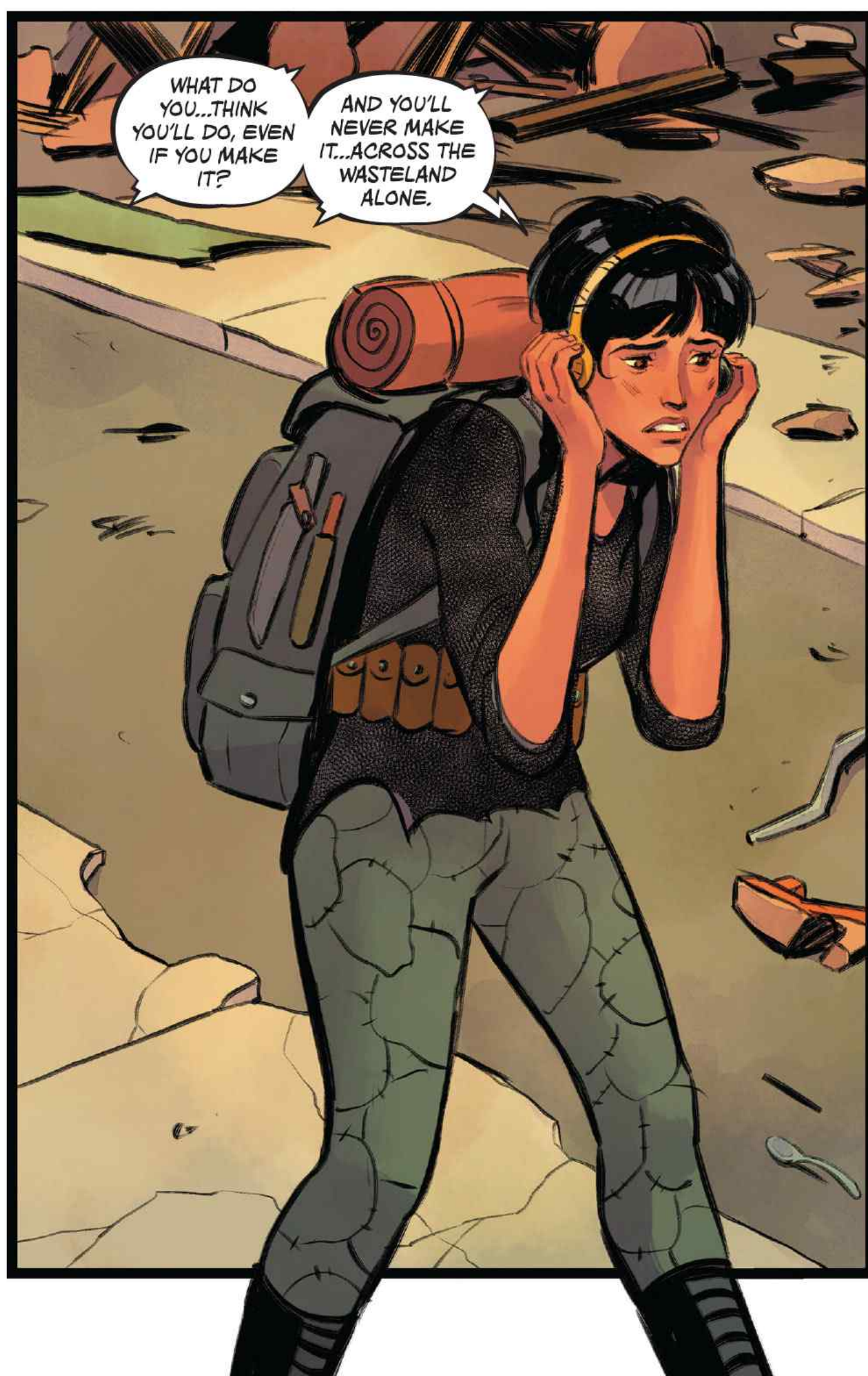


Sometimes they'd
agree to explore
together for a time.

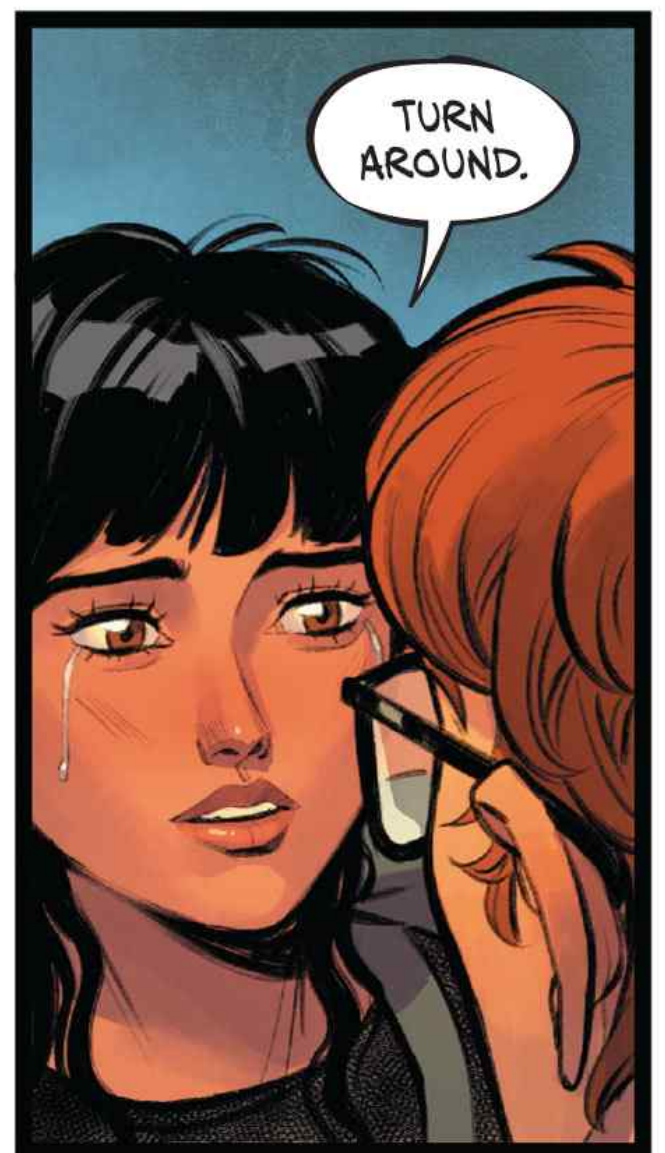


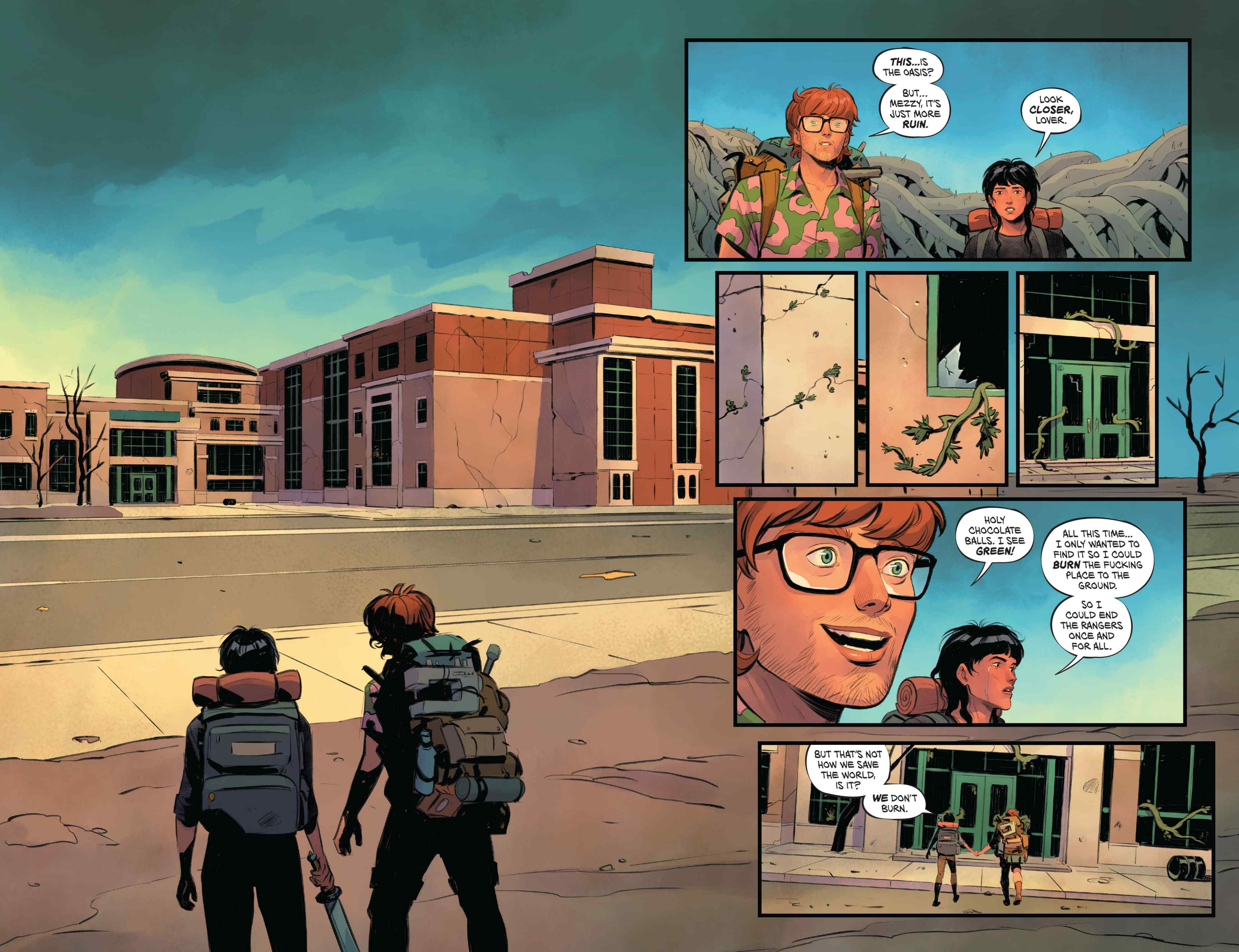
And to surprise
themselves with what
unknown corners of
the world they might
discover.













THE EXPANSE CONTINUES AT BOOM! STUDIOS

Sometimes you get what you want, just not the way you expect.

I wanted more of *The Expanse*, and I wasn't alone. The TV show got me hooked from the start, and between episodes I devoured *Leviathan Wakes*, the first in James SA Corey's Hugo Award-winning novel series from which it was adapted. Waiting for the next season — and the next, and the next — always felt like a hard time. Fortunately I had the books, short stories and novellas to immerse myself in.

Created by James SA Corey — the pen-name of authors Daniel Abraham and Ty Franck — *The Expanse* weaves a vast and sprawling story with multiple viewpoint characters, as the human race struggles to colonise the vast gulf of our solar system. But of course, people are still people. Even 200 years in the future, we're still just apes who throw rocks. It's just that the rocks are bigger. A lot bigger. . .

That kind of scale might not seem to lend itself to the budgetary restraints of the small screen, but they pulled off a miracle — and they didn't dumb it down for TV! How often do we get to say that about award-winning science fiction. . .?

They say all good things must come to an end. . . but they're wrong. After three outstanding seasons, *The Expanse* was cancelled by the SYFY Channel, but fans of *The Expanse* mounted a passionate campaign to get it picked up by another studio — and it worked! Another miracle! We got three more excellent seasons via Amazon. *The Expanse* fans understand that real fans aren't gatekeepers, they're evangelists. We share the love.

While we waited in hope for more, I kept *The Expanse* alive by re-watching the show with my son, playing the RPG (terrible Belter accent and all) live on Twitch, and lining up at New York Comic Con to get my photo taken aboard the Rocinante. I was grateful for what we'd been given, but I still wanted more. . .

. . . Until, quite out of the blue, BOOM! Studios' Jon Moisan emailed to ask if I'd have any interest in writing a new comic series of *The Expanse*.

I swear, I jumped at the offer so fast, I should have been strapped into a crash couch.

Like I said, sometimes you get what you want, just not the way you expect. I wanted more of *The Expanse*. . . but I never even dared to dream I'd be writing it myself. Now it's real. It's happening. I'm writing these characters I know and love — Holden, Naomi, Amos, Bobbie, Clarissa, Avasarala, Drummer — and you'd better believe I'm grinning while I do it.

The Expanse: Dragon Tooth is a continuation of the TV show's storyline, set soon after the finale of season six. Our first issue is due out in April, and the Kickstarter for exclusive limited-edition collections is currently rocketing towards a million dollars in pledges. The fans pulled off another miracle, and the Rocinante is ready to roll again.

Get on board.

ANDY DIGGLE

WRITER, *THE EXPANSE: DRAGON TOOTH*



NEW GIVEAWAY!

THE ICONIC SCI-FI UNIVERSE OF THE EXPANSE
CONTINUES AT BOOM! STUDIOS!

To celebrate the upcoming launch of **THE EXPANSE: DRAGON TOOTH #1**, we're pulling some of our favorite EXPANSE stories out of the archive for an exclusive BOOM! Direct giveaway package. Scan the QR code for your chance to win and get ready for DRAGON TOOTH on April 5!

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!



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KEEP AN EYE ON...

THE NEIGHBORS™

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(MAW)

ARTIST

**LETIZIA
CADONICI**
(HOUSE OF SLAUGHTER)

ON SALE
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SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN...
THIS MONSTER!"

